

EXHIBIT 25

Letter dated February 8, 1927 to C.A. Engle, Supervising Engineer, from Charles H. Perk, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

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BURKE, CHAS.
T. C. A. ENGLE
8 FEB. 27

Mr. C. A. Engle,
Supervising Engineer.

Dear Mr. Engle:

There is enclosed herewith copy of a communication addressed to Mr. S. M. Brosius, representative of the Indian Rights Association, in reference to pending litigation involving the water rights of the Walker River Indians, in Nevada, which is self-explanatory.

At a recent conference held in this bureau at which were present the congressional delegation from Nevada, the matter of entering into stipulation with the upper water users for the purpose of shortening the litigation, was gone into. It was pointed out that you would be requested to confer with the Special Assistants to the Attorney General, Messrs. Ethelbert Ward and Cole S. Harwood, and to bring to the attention of these representatives copy of your preliminary report on the reservoir investigations and to assist in any way possible looking to the preparation of a stipulation having in mind the termination of the litigation at the earliest practicable date, any such stipulation, however, to adequately protect and safeguard the water rights of the Indians. It is our understanding that the defendants, or at least a considerable number of them, are willing to enter into a stipulation recognizing a first priority in the Indians to the extent of 10,000 acres providing a reservoir is constructed on the Indian reservation to impound waters for the irrigation of the Indian lands. Since it is the contention that the Indians have the first prior right to sufficient water to irrigate their lands it would appear to be inconsistent to construct a reservoir to impound waters for such lands at the expense of the Indians because under such circumstances the prior and first right would then virtually be relegated to a secondary right. In view of this, if the defendant water users insist on a stipulation providing for the

construction of a reservoir such stipulation should first provide for a first right for 10,000 acres of Indian lands and second for the construction of a reservoir without cost to the Indians. You will accordingly take this matter up with the Special Assistants to the Attorney General and advise them regarding same and render as much assistance as possible in this connection, keeping the Office advised of developments in the case from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Chas. H. Burke

Commissioner.

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